

CHAOS!
COMICS



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(of 6) shaw001

Lady Death®



Hughes
96
JENSEN
Ghy

Lady Death®

"The Crucible" part 4 (of 6): "Trampled Underfoot"



The Story So Far

The epic saga continues! LADY DEATH made some startling discoveries about her past— including an unsuspected kinship with the VALKYRIES of Norse legend and her prophesied role in saving ASGARD from destruction. Drawn into the Asgardians' war against her will, Lady Death now leads their forces against GENOCIDE, the mighty Lord of Chaos, and his DOOM MAGISTRATES. Following a victory against SINISTRA, Lady Death finds a moment to relax between battles, but her tranquility is short-lived when SCORPIA and the NECRO-ÉLITE renew the attack on Asgard. Meanwhile, Genocide's minions race to complete the ominous towers called GENOCIDE'S HAMMERS. Genocide's goal of restoring primal Chaos to all creation approaches... and only Lady Death stands in his way!

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SOMEWHERE BEYOND THE
PALE IS WRATHWORLD.

A WORLD, AN ENTITY,
BIRTHED FOR ONE REASON:
TO RESURRECT THE
TIME BEFORE CREATION.

A PLACE
RULED BY...

GENOCIDE

PLEASE SING YOUR
SONG.

MAKE US
BELIEVE.

MAKE US
LONG.

FOR
WHAT YOU
REAP AND
WHAT YOU
SOW --

-- IS SOME-
THING THAT
WE DO NOT
KNOW.

SOON, OH
SO SOON, THE
COSMOS WILL
BE CLEANSED
IN A BLINDING
DEATHFLASH!

AND
**ALL WILL
BE CHAOS
AGAIN!**

SPREAD
MY WORDS,
SCARBOIL CLAN.
LET **ALL** THE
BRETHREN
KNOW.

MYSTERIOUS
NEXUS, CONDUIT
THROUGH WHICH
INFINITY MEETS,

YOU --
NEXUS --
WILL BE AT
CAUSE!

FAR, FAR AWAY, BUT
ESSENTIAL TO GENOCIDE'S
SCHEMES, IS A REALM AT WAR.

ATTACK!
ABOLISH!

FSHOOM

DEATH
TO FINITE
FORMS

ASGARD HAS NEVER EXPERIENCED BATTLE SUCH AS THIS.

ENDLESS DOOM MAGISTRATES, UNDER GENOCIDE'S COMMAND, POUR ONTO HER LANDS, RAVAGING EVERYTHING IN THEIR WAKE.

THEIR AGENDA IS A MYSTERY EVEN TO THEM, BUT THEIR APPETITE FOR ANNIHILATION DRIVES THEM ON.

YET THERE IS ONE DEFENDER WHO REVEALS IN THE BATTLE AS MUCH AS THEY --

TASTE STEEL AND FIRE, YOU WRETCHED, MISBEGOTTEN SLAVES!

HA HA
HA HA!

AS LADY DEATH GLADLY DEALS DEATH FROM THE SKY, THE UNDEAD VIKING WARRIORS UNDER HER COMMAND DO SO FROM THE GROUND.

SQUEE

UNLIVING, THEY DON'T SUCCUMB TO THE DOOM MAGISTRATE'S INFECTIOUS, PARASITIC ATTACKS.

BUT THE GODS OF ASGARD AREN'T AS FORTUNATE, SO LADY DEATH, HERALDED AS THE CHOSEN ONE, COMES TO THEIR AID.

LADY DEATH! PITIFUL SOFT-SKIN!

YOU FINALLY CAME TO GROUND, YOU REALIZE YOU CANNOT HIDE!

RESISTANCE IS FOLLY! SUCCUMB!

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

THIS LADY DEATH, SHE'S A BERSERKER!

FLEE, MY LOVE, IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE, FLEE.

WHERE? WE'RE OVER-COME!

AFTER THE FINAL FATE I DEALT YOUR SISTER, SCORPIA, I WOULDN'T DREAM OF DEPRIVING YOU!

RAAAA!



WHAT DOES
GENOCIDE
WANT HERE?

SKRORK

SISTERS!
BELOW!
THE DOOM
MAGISTRATES
SURROUND LADY
DEATH!

CLOSE
IN! FLANK
HER!



WELCOME
WARRIORS!
HA HA HAA!
NOW PRESS
ON!

WHAT'S
THIS STRANGE
SENSATION?

SUDDENLY,
I FEEL
RENEWED!

HIDEOUS
ENTITIES!

THEIR
EXISTENCE IS
SACRILEGE!

ATTACK!



FEERGH!

WUWUWU

EEEEAAAA!

AAAAAA!



OUR
ENERGIES...
MERGED!

FEEL IT?
TOGETHER,
WE ARE
GREATER!

INDEED!

THIS
OCCURRED IN
OUR SKIRMISH
OUTSIDE THE CITY
GATES!

I KNOW I
POSSESS PART
OF ODIN'S POWER.
THE VALKYRIE
POSSESS THE
POWER TOO!

I SEE IT, FEEL
IT, ARE WE THE
SUM OF ODIN'S
POWER?

IS *THIS*
GENOCIDE'S
DESIRE?

TO
HELL WITH
GENOCIDE,
SISTERS!

**HA-HA
HA!**

BROCK,
WHAT HAVE YOU
PLUNGED YOURSELF
INTO *THIS* TIME? *THIS*
AIN'T NO PLACE
FOR ME.

LOOK AT
THEM! OUR ONLY
GLIMMER OF
VICTORY. WHY
THEM?

I... I
CAN'T BELIEVE
MY EYES!

BEDLAM!
QUICK, FIND
VANDALA! BRING
HER HERE!

COUNT
ON IT!

IN THE HEART OF THE GOLDEN REALM IS ODIN'S CASTLE. THOUGH THE VAL-FATHER IS GONE, HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE, FRIGGA, A WISE AND NOBLE WOMAN OF FAITH.

"CAN YOU SMELL IT? THEY'RE GETTING CLOSER! IT'S REPUGNANT!"

"THEY'LL OVERTAKE US!"

WON'T LEAVE MY HOME GRIM

I HOPE YOU'RE PREPARED TO DIE HERE!

...UH EXCUSE ME MY QUEEN. I MEANT NO OFFENSE.

I'LL STAY! I'LL FIGHT!

NONE TAKEN.

UNDERSTAND, GRIM. I KNOW THIS WILL PASS. I HAVE ODIN'S WORD.

BUT HE'S DEAD!

FRIGGA, WE MUST GO!

VOOPH

THE VALKYRIE ARE CRUCIAL TO GENOCIDE'S...

HOW PERCEPTIVE, BEDLAM.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A NUISANCE.

EEERGGG

NO LONGER!

UNCREATE THE FINITE FORMS!

REDUCE THEM TO SCREAMS!

HAIL GENOCIDE! HAIL CHAOS!

MONSTER!

TO SOME, PERHAPS I AM.

TO OTHERS, I AM SALVATION.

Oh NO! NO!

EEERGGG

CREATURE, GIVE IT TO ME.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?

AN ASSEMBLY OF MATTER. A WHIM OF ORDER. AN INSIGNIFICANT.

I AM QUEEN OF THIS REALM!

RECALL WHAT BECAME OF THE KING? NOW GIVE IT TO ME!

GOOD
DAY TO DIE
EH, TYR?

VULNAVIA!
I'M PLEASED
WE FINALLY MET. I
ASSUME YOU'VE COME
TO CLAIM YOUR
LEADERSHIP.

I CAME
TO OFFER
HELP --

VULNAVIA?!
BUT... BUT SHE
HID HERSELF AWAY!
SHE FLED FROM
BATTLE!

I NEVER
BELIEVED I'D
SEE HER
AGAIN!

HOW
CONVENIENT,
BIG SISTER.

I LEAD
THE VALKYRIE
NOW, NOT SOME PUP
DRAGGING HER TAIL
BETWEEN HER LEGS,
HIDING IN THE
SHADOWS.

YOU ABANDONED
ASGARD, VULNAVIA.
NOW LOOK AT WHAT
THE REALM'S BECOME!
AND VANDALA... SHE'S
MORTALLY WOUNDED.

THOUGH I
MAY FORGIVE
YOU, I'LL
NOT FORGET
EASILY.

WATCH
YOUR TONGUE,
LITTLE SISTER. I
FIGHT FOR ASGARD,
I DON'T FIGHT
FOR YOU!

SWAK

SISTERS?

DON'T BE
QUICK WITH YOUR
JUDGMENTS! I KNOW
OF ANOTHER WHO
RESISTED THE CALL
TO BATTLE.

SHE
COWERED LIKE A
INFANT, REFUSING
HER DESTINY, REFUSING
TO BE THE CHOSEN
ONE!

ISN'T
THAT RIGHT,
HOPE?


SHURAK

DIDN'T
YOU HIDE
DURING YOUR
ODYSSEY?

I CONCEDE
YOU'RE RIGHT!

BUT
I'M NOT
RESISTING
NOW!

SQUK
FERGGH



AND SO THE BATTLE
RAGED FOR A TIME

AT FIRST, IT IS EASY FOR
THE ASGARDIAN WARRIORS
TO SUCCUMB TO THE
BATTLE LUST, FOR IN THE
PAST IT SERVED THEM WELL.

BUT AS THE ADRENALINE
RUSH WEARS THIN, IN
CREEPS EXHAUSTION...
AND DOUBT.

MY LOVE,
MY CHILDREN,
GONE. WHY
FIGHT ON?

VALHALLA, I
AM COMING!

VALHALLA
IS GONE, FLESH!
YOU DIE, THAT
IS ALL!

THAT
IS THE
END!

THEN THE TRAGIC REALIZATION
COMES FOR THEM: WHAT IS LEFT
TO FIGHT FOR? THEIR HOPES,
THEIR DREAMS ARE DASHED AS
THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS ARE
RIPPED APART BEFORE THEIR EYES.

AND THEIR ENEMIES,
THEY KEEP COMING.
THERE IS SIMPLY NO
END TO THEIR NUMBER.

THROUGH THE INSANITY
OF IT ALL, A FAINT GLIMMER
OF HOPE GLOWS FROM A
COLORFUL SPHERE, WHERE
EVEN DOOM MAGISTRATES
FEAR TO TREAD.

THAT'S RIGHT,
COWARDS!
RETREAT!

PERHAPS
WE CAN PREVAIL
AFTER ALL,
PERHAPS THERE'S
A CHANCE.

HOPE
BELOW!

SCORPIA!
YOU FEAR
HER, DON'T
YOU?

IT'S WISE
TO FEAR
HER!

SOFT
SKINZZZ!

FEAR
NOTHING,
YOU HEAR?

DO NOT
SUCCUMB!

GREUH! **KRAK**

SURVIVE!
OVERCOME!

**FAM
FAM
FAM**

DON'T
YOU UNDER-
STAND?

THEY CANNOT
CONCEIVE DEFEAT.
MAKE THEM FEAR
IT! FOR THE VAL-
FATHER, FOR THE
REALM, FOR THE
UNIVERSE!

FOR
THE SHEER
PLEASURE
OF IT ALL!

FORSAKE
YOUR HUMANITY,
GIVE IN, BECOME
DEATH ITSELF! IT'S
THE ONLY WAY!
THE ONLY WAY!

**HA HA
HA!**

HOPE,
NO! IT'S
THE BATTLE-
LUST!

WHY DID
ODIN GIVE
THE POWER
TO THEM?

IF WE
POSSESSED THE
POWER, HIS SONS
WOULD HAVE SAVED
THE REALM. ALL THIS
WOULDN'T BE!

THOR, ODIN --
MY BROTHERS, MY
FAMILY WOULD
BE ALIVE!

KEEP
YOUR WITS
ABOUT
YOU!

HOW
WOULD YOU
KNOW, COWARD?
LADY DEATH IS
THE CHOSEN
ONE!

SHE'S
RIGHT! LADY
DEATH
LEADS!
AND WE
OBEY!



CAN'T
TAKE
IT

ANymORE!

THE
ENERGY...

...IT'S...
GONE...

SOFT-SM
IS WOUNDED!

WHILE
THEY'RE
CONFUSED!
ATTACK!

I
SHALL REDEEM
MY FIRST-BLOOD.
SINISTRA, THIS SOFT
SM, LADY DEATH,
DIES NOW! OUR
HONOR WILL BE
RESTORED!

FOR
GENOCIDE!

NO WAY!
I GOTTA BE
SEEN' THINGS!
I GOTTA!

HEY,
THE ENERGY
BALL, IT'S
GONE.

Uh-Oh.

FOR
SINISTRA!

...!

HOLD THEM BACK!
HOPE!

BITCH! SUFFER... THE BITE OF MY... BLADE.

KINK

SLIKT

KER-ANGH

NOW YOU UNDERSTAND... SOFT SKIN?!

YOUR TRIMMET, IT MEANS MUCH TO YOU!
LIKE SINISTRA MEANS MUCH TO ME.

PLEASE DON'T TURN!
EH?!

IF YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR WRETCHED LIFE, GROVELLER, YOU'LL FLEE... LIKE YOU DID BEFORE!

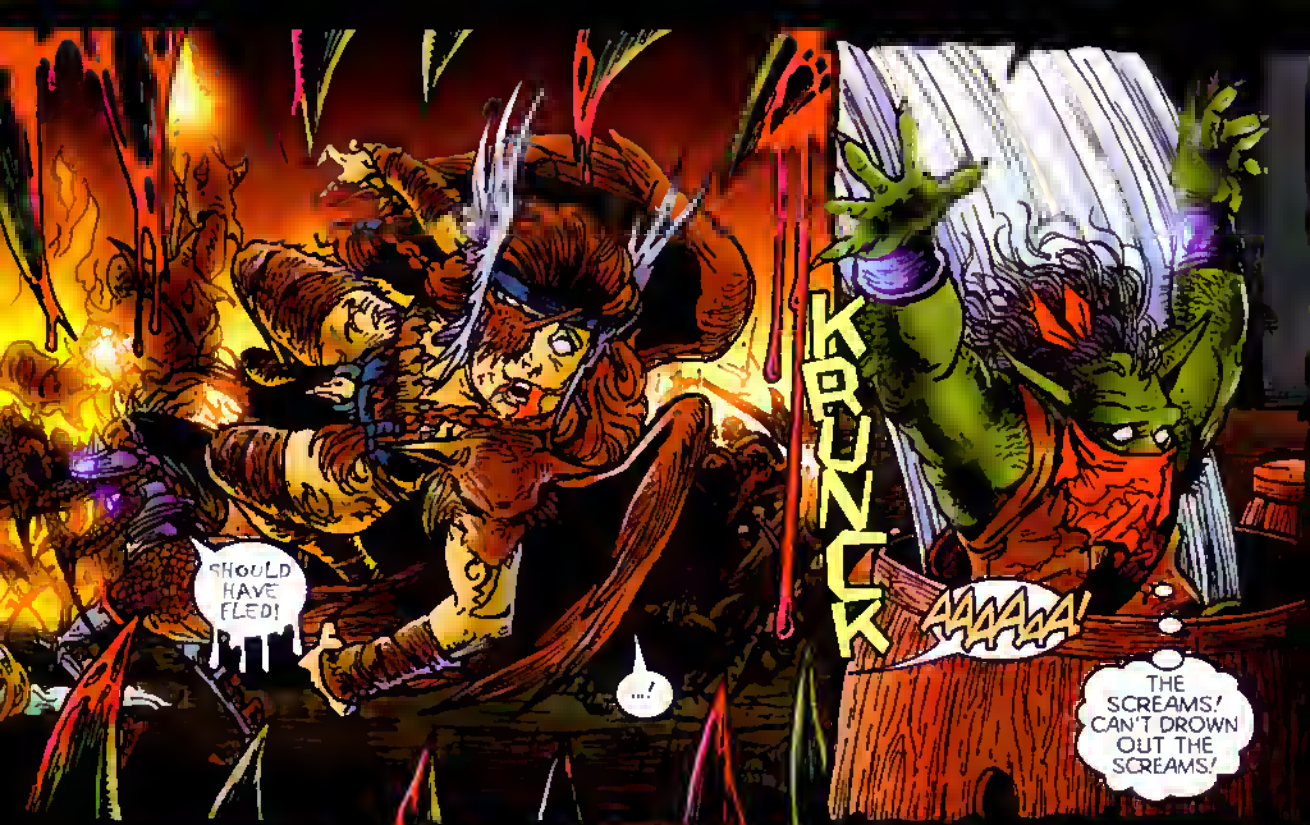
NO! NEVER AG --

KER-ACK

YOU'LL REGRET... THIS.

OUR REALM FALLS LIKE A STRAW HOUSE IN A GALE!
I... I DIDN'T MEAN...

DIDN'T MEAN...



I WILL
UNCREATE
A YOU AS I
DID GODIN.

SLOWLY
PAINFULLY, YOU
SHALL DISSOLVE
INTO COUNTLESS
SCREAMING
ATOMS.

SHRAKA

HOO

DON'T EVEN
CONCEIVE IT,
SCORPIA.

%\$&#
YOU!
&*%
ALL OF
YOU!

HEE
HEE
HEE!

HAA
HAA
HAA!


HO
HO
HO!

WHAT
GENOCIDE
WANTS --

-- WE
STILL DO
NOT
KNOW.



DON'T
DESTROY
IT. YET



YOUR
MATE ANTIGONE,
IS RIGHT! YOU USE
ORDER TO RESTORE
CHAOS! IT'S
BLASPHEMY!

IT
IS
UNHOLY!

I WILL IT
TO NOTHING!
IT IS MY
RIGHT!

SINISTRA
MUST BE
REDEEMED, SO
SHE WILL
SHARE THE
CHAOS!

IT IS **MINE**,
SCORPIA!

AM I
NOT YOUR
LORD? IT'S
NOT YOUR
PLACE TO
QUESTION.

PERHAPS
YOU SHOULD
REGRESS TO
FINITE
FORM.

YES, I
BELIEVE
SO.

SUCH
IS **MY**
RIGHT!

ENJOY.

ME,
ME.

NO
ME.

WE?

ANY
OTHERS
WANT TO JOIN
SCORPIA?!

DOOM
MAGISTRATES
AND NECRO-
ELITE, KNOW THIS:
CONQUERING THE
VALKYRIE WAS PART
OF MY PLAN.

I'VE
SCAVENGED THE
COSMOS FOR POWER
TO USHER IN THE NEW
AGE OF CHAOS! LONG AGO,
I DISCOVERED THE MOST
PROFOUND POWER
OF LIGHT IN THE
COSMOS.

ODIN,
THIS REALM'S
RULER, DIVIDED
HIS POWER AMONG
THESE VALKYRIE.
HE SOUGHT TO
DISGUISE IT.

I WANTED
THEM TO COME
TOGETHER, BUT
OF THEIR OWN
ACCORD, IT TOOK
CAREFUL
PLANNING.

NOW
THEY ARE
MINE!

YOU CALL
YOURSELF A
CHAOS LORD?
YOU ARE A SLAVE
TO ORDER!

**HA-HA
HA**

ENOUGH!

IN THE HEART OF THE
NEXUS OF ALL THINGS..

TRAPPED.
TRAPPED
LIKE A DAMN
FOOL!

HAVEN'T
TURNED OUT TO
BE MUCH OF A
GUARDIAN. THE
TALISMAN I SWORE
TO PROTECT IS
GONE, AND BY
GENOCIDE'S HAND
I FIGURE.

HEY,
WHAT'S
THAT?

THE CHAOS/
TALISMAN!
WHAT'S THAT IT'S
CONNECTED
TA?

Oh
NO.

SUDDENLY
IT ALL MAKES
SENSE.

THE
VALKYRIE GOT
THE ODIN-POWER.
AND THAT THING
DOWN THERE.
THAT'S GOTTA BE
A LAUNCHER!

GENOCIDE'S
GONNA SHOOT
THE ODIN-POWER
THROUGH THE
DAMN TALISMAN.
AIM IT AT THE
NEXUS AND,
AND..

WE
GO!
TO
WRATH-
WORLD!
TO THE
END!

DESTROY
EVERYTHING
THAT EXISTS!

Huh,
WISH I HADN'T
FIGURED THAT
OUT.

BUT NOT
TO WORRY. I
BET LADY DEATH
AND HER POSSE
DONE KICKED
SOME TAIL BY
NOW.

I'M
WORRYIN'
'BOUT
NOTHIN'.

NOW WE
KNOW

HOW
IT'S SO.

SO OFF
TO WORK
WE GO.

ASGARD, AMID THE RUBBLE
OF WHAT ONCE WAS...

...UGH...

UGH! TOO
TERRIBLE!
NEED
ALE!

ALE WILL
DO. LOTS
OF ALE

WHO AM I
KIDDING?

BUT WAIT
THE SWORD!
I SAW THE
SWORD!

...SOMEWHERE

AHA!
PERFECT!

I'LL
DUST OFF MY
GEAR AND WHIP
UP A MIGHTY
WEAPON!

THEY'LL RUE
THE DAY THEY
LEFT BROCK THE
WEAPONSMITH,
FOR DEAD!

WE'RE
SUNK.

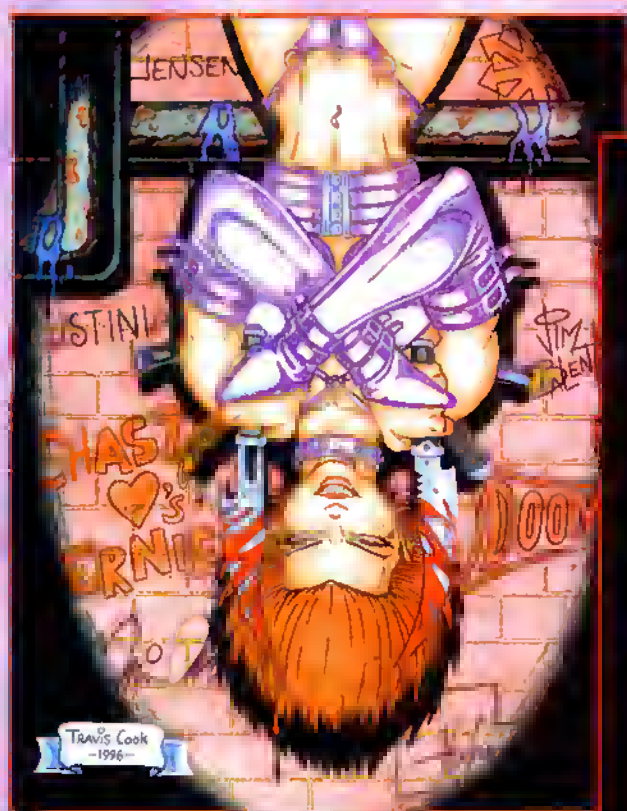
NEXT:

I'M GONNA
CRAWL!

HEY FIENDS!

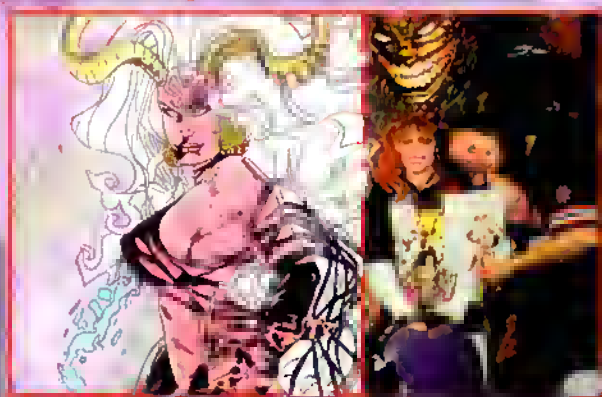
This month is **FIEND APPRECIATION MONTH** at Chaos! To kick things off, we're going to show you some winning pinups sent in by **Marian Danzig** of Harris Park, Australia, and **Travis Cook** of Saginaw, Texas. Take a look! (By the way, Marian's entry won our trading card contest, so look for her work in our upcoming **EVIL ERNIE: MASTER OF ANNIHILATION** trading card set, on sale soon!)

TRAVIS COOK



MARION DANZIG

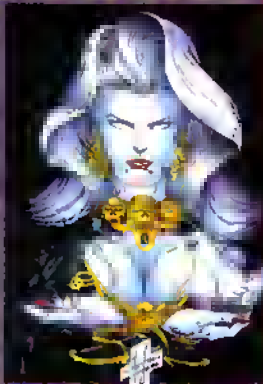
We'd also like to show you the artwork of **AMBERAH TITTLE**, who met Brian and the gang at Mid-Ohio Con. Brian was mightily impressed by her work and promised that it would appear in an issue of **LADY DEATH: THE CRUCIBLE**. (And we apologize that it took this long!) Thanks, Amberah— we love it!



AMBERAH TITTLE
with Brian Pulido at the Mid Ohio-Con

Next Issue:

With the Valkyrie defeated, Lady Death a helpless captive, and Asgard in ruins, things look pretty bad. Especially since Genocide now has his hands on Odin's power! Can Lady Death stop him from destroying all of reality? If she can't, then everything depends on— Brock the Weaponsmith?!



And Now...

Turn the page to keep this fiend appreciation thing rolling!

Special CHAOS! FIELD REPORT

CHAOS! COMES TO GOLDEN APPLE, LOS ANGELES

Saturday, February 8, 1997, was the day that Chaos! Comics reached yet another milestone. At 2:45pm at the Golden Apple comic store in Los Angeles, California, Chaos! Comics officially entered the fast-growing and very popular collectible action figure market.

type action figure, I knew I had to be there. I was—and for those of you who couldn't make it, you missed out big time...

The event started out in true Chaos! style, with Brian and Steven showing up and immediately heading for the people waiting in line, to

Clayburn Moore, Brian and Steven were all behind a glass display case that served as the signing table. Clay had the figure in a clear box display case, covered by a thick velvet shroud. As Brian explained that this figure, and the rest to follow, had been in the pre-production phase for over a year, a hush came over the lucky fans who were actually inside to hear all this. Brian then introduced—the Lady Death prototype action figure.

As Clay removed the shroud, the "ooooohs," "aaaaahs," and applause from the crowd was equivalent to that of an action-packed blockbuster movie ending.

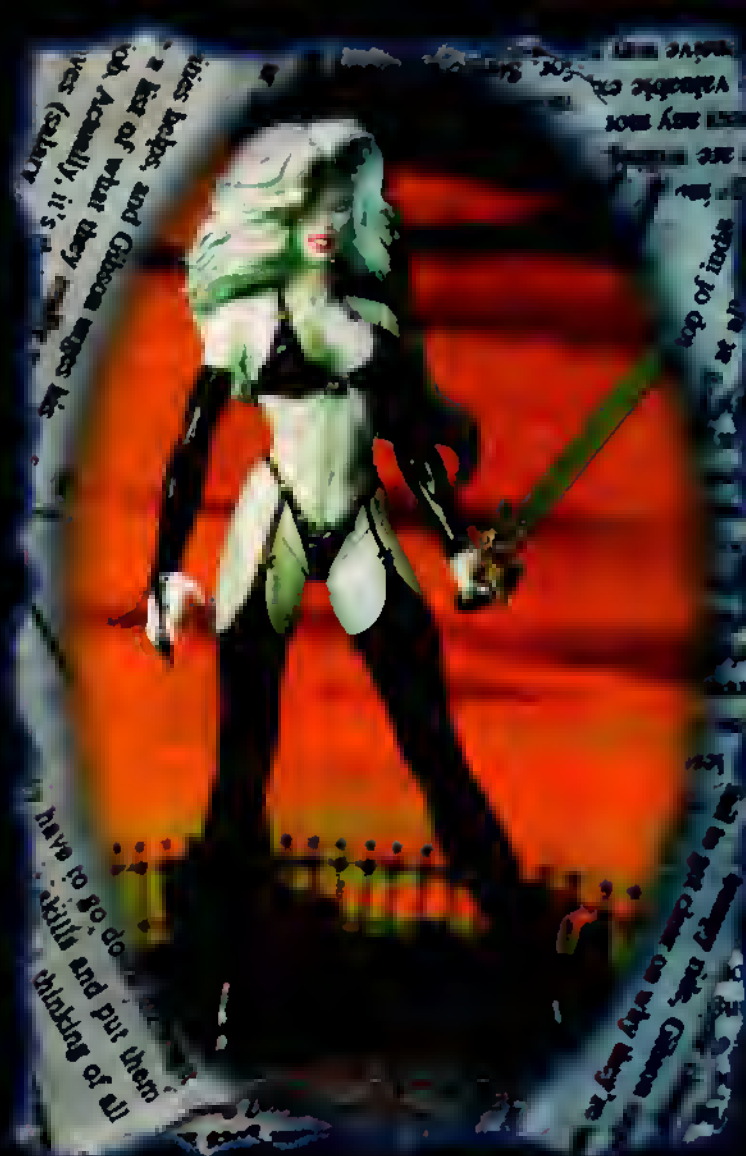
After the crowds had settled down, Brian announced that it was time to start the signing. As he did, a loud commotion erupted from the front of the shop. Rankenstein and Teddy Luger, fresh from their appearance in EVIL ERNIE VS. THE MOVIE MONSTERS, walked into the shop, obviously P!\$\$%D

OFF at the fact that Evil Ernie makes such short work of them in Ernie's latest comic adventure. They worked their way through the heavily stocked and very crowded Golden Apple store, to end up face to face with Brian. It didn't take too long for Brian, Clay and Steven to handle these "monsters," running them out of the way of the Lady

shake hands, say "Hi!" and quickly discuss Chaos! before unveiling their latest masterpiece. Once inside, Brian and Steven sat down and Brian introduced Bill Liebowitz, the main man at Golden Apple. After a quick history of the relationship between Chaos! Comics and Golden Apple, followed by a trivia contest, the big unveiling moment had come.

Invading Golden Apple were Brian Pulido, Steven Hughes, Clayburn Moore, and about 350-plus die-hard Chaos! fans/fiends.

My name is DAVE BALLANCE (Fiend Club #1392). I am a self-proclaimed hardcore Chaos! Comics fan and an action figure FREAK. When I heard that Chaos! Comics was having a public unveiling of the Lady Death proto-



The main attraction of the day - the LADY DEATH ACTION FIGURE prototype. Now this is an action figure... Chaos! style!

Death action figure and away from fans who seemed amused that they had shown up. Still, these two hung around to terrorize (or was that amuse?) the fans waiting in line.

Brian, Steven and Clayburn signed and chatted away, making sure that no one went without their collectibles signed and some personal conversation exchanged. The highlight (of course) was at the end of the signing area: the coveted Lady Death prototype action figure, up close and personal.

The guys signed for two hours longer than they were scheduled to, a true sign of

their appreciation for all the people who showed up for this once-in-a-great-while event.

Overall, this was one special day. Chaos! Comics and Moore Action Collectibles dedicated themselves to creating the most highly detailed, state-of-the-art packaged, affordable collectible action figures on the market. And for all of us fans, being given the opportunity to chat with the creators and witness this historic event in person was what made this day special to all who were there.

My personal thought as a Chaos! Comics fan and action figure collector was that this was INCREDIBLE! Lady Death in 3-D proportions, spot on and incredibly faithful to Steven's great drawings. This fall (when the set of four figures will be released) cannot get here soon enough. My prediction: these figures will knock the action figure market on its BUTT.

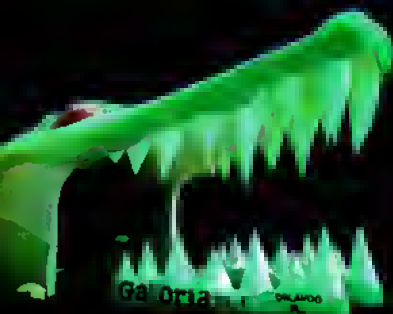
Get 'em while you can.



The crowd gathered and the line out front of Golden Apple was everywhere!



And here is another eye-full of some of the Chaos! Fiends waiting to take a peek at Lady Death, on display at Golden Apple, Los Angeles with the Chaos! Crew that afternoon.



CHAOS! GOES TO FLORIDA!

Brian Pulido, Steven Hughes, Jason Jensen and Jack Gray took in the sights in Florida just recently during the fantastic Mega-Con event in Orlando.

Brian, who we all know is the most quiet and reserved guy on Earth, said, "It was awesome! The best convention ever! I got so energized being there, doing the give-and-take with the fans—I can't wait to go back."

Steven Hughes & Ralph Zientera



During the trip, Brian & Steven took some Fiends on a trip to nearby Gatorland, as part of a cross-promotion with Wizard Press. Here's a few snapshots of the Gator-Gang in the swamps of Gatorland!

Brian Pulido & Steven Hughes at Gatorland with Jim McLaughlin, Mark Morales & contest winner Ralph Zientera & friend.

YIKES! This guy looks hungry... think I'll have Evil take care of my light work!!



CHAOS! WORLD HEADQUARTERS!

Diamond Previews "Queens of Halloween" contest winner **FRANCINE KRAJEWSKI** stops by.

We've also had some visitors here at Chaos! World Headquarters lately. Here are a few snapshots of **Francine Krajewski** and **James Burns**. Francine won the Diamond Previews "Queens of Halloween" contest (and if you missed the stunning jam artwork by **Steven Hughes** [Lady Death], **Michael Turner** & **D-Tron** [Witchblade], and **Louis Small, Jr.** [Vampirella], beg your retailer for a peek) and dropped by the office to hang out with some of the gang. AND she came to the Halloween Bash as well!



Steven Hughes, Francine & Brian Pulido at the Chaos! World Headquarters



Francine & James Burns at the 1997 Chaos! Halloween Bash!



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